1:34c Dwraith E-5 (1922-1924)1948
NEA Bellacoola NEA

itself to be by withstanding the crushing weight of stone and earth. An old Kimsquit man expressed the firm conviction that his great age was the result of this treatment soon after birth. [824]

To Cause Imperviousness to Cold

Kill a water ouzel, warm it at a fire, then press it against every part of the infant's body. This makes him as heedless of cold water as the bird. A merganser may be used in the same way, or the foot of one be placed in the child's hand and patted as his fingers clutch it.

To Cause a Quarrelsome Disposition

Burn the nest of wasps and rub the ashes on the infant's face. He will become as bellicose and quick to resent injury as the insects. [155] One old man who habitually beats his wife explains that this is involuntary, since he was treated in this way when a child. Fighting is no longer allowed, so the only person on whom he can exercise his martial ardour is his wife. The woman regards this treatment as a matter of course and the reason is accepted as valid by her associates.

To Cause Success in Thieving

Kill a pack-rat, warm it at a fire, and rub the carcass lightly over the infant's body. This will make him as successful a thief as the animal. Other methods are to cut off a foot and pat this as the infant clutches it in his fingers, or to rub its hands with the ashes of a burnt rat.

To Cause Success in Singing

Catch a live robin or *smurmuxels* (probably one of the thrushes), warm it at a fire, and rub it lightly against the infant's throat, saying:

"May he be a singer like you."

Then release the bird, and the child will grow up a songster. [539] The following story is told of the power of the *smurmuxels*'s song: